



Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Media contact:

Charla Haley
Public Information Specialist
(801) 538-6710

News Advisory

Pandemic Flu Task Force to Address Adequacy of Health Care System and Needs of Vulnerable Populations

What: The Governor's Task Force for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness will discuss two key pandemic preparedness issues and establish recommendations for the Governor. Task Force members will address the ability of Utah's health care system to care for a sharp increase in ill people during a pandemic, the needs of Utah's vulnerable populations and what can be done to provide support and care to those either confined by illness or who are essential to assure the community response to the pandemic.

Why: A pandemic influenza outbreak will severely stress and overwhelm the capacity of our current health care system. In addition, Utahns who are confined at home or in alternate facilities may be unable to receive expected care. Task force recommendations will help determine how resources can be used to provide the best care to the most people. The Task Force brings together various community leaders, as well as those with expertise in the areas of health care, business, elected officials, faith-based organizations, public safety and public health.

Who:

- Colleen Connelly
Bioterrorism Response Coordinator, University of Utah Hospital
- Teresa Garrett
Director of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services and Public Health Nursing
- David Neale
Director of Emergency Services, American Red Cross

Connelly will present an issue paper outlining difficulties the health care system will face in a pandemic. Garrett and Neale will discuss the impact of a pandemic on Utah's vulnerable populations. They will also make recommendations aimed at easing the burden.

When: Wednesday, November 8, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
***** For the broadcast media and other interested parties, due to room capacity limitations, we will provide an interview opportunity directly following the meeting at 10:30 a.m.*****

Where: Radisson Downtown Hotel, Cottonwood Room
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City

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